

News Advisory

From the Rhode Island Judiciary



Nation's chief justices, top court administrators will hold 2018 annual conference in Newport

October 13, 2015: Rhode Island will host the annual joint meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators in Newport in 2018, Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell announced today.

The CCJ/COSCA 2018 Annual Meeting will bring the highest judicial officers of the states and top court administrators together to discuss important issues in the administration of justice.

“We are honored to have Rhode Island selected to host the 2018 conference,” Chief Justice Suttell said. “With its history and natural beauty, we think Newport is a terrific venue for the conference and we are excited to showcase the city and Rhode Island to the chief justices, the state court administrators and their guests from around the country. Our court leaders will have the opportunity and the appropriate atmosphere to brainstorm with colleagues about the administrative sides of our respective courts, to examine what we do well and to identify where we can improve in the daily elements of personnel, finance, information technology, communications, security, facilities and operations, and policy setting and administration.”

The two organizations will meet separately in Newport to discuss relevant matters but will also hold a joint session during the 5-day conference. The topics of discussion have yet to be chosen. The National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Virginia, will coordinate the conference's educational component, as it does every year.

The conference will be held from August 18-22, 2018. It is expected to draw about 250 people to Newport, where it will be based at the Newport Marriott.

Founded in 1949, the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) consists of the highest judicial officers in the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories of Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is governed by a board of directors and it has several standing and temporary committees to assist in the improvement of administration, rules and methods of procedure, and the organization and operation of state courts and judicial systems.

Established in 1955, the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) consists of the state court administrator or equivalent official in the same locations as the CCJ. It has a significant role in national policy-making, education and training in the profession of court management. Rhode Island's state court administrator since 2004, J. Joseph Baxter, currently serves on COSCA's board of directors.

"A meeting that brings together the chief judicial officers of the states and territories, as well as their top court administrators, is a prestigious event that we look forward to with great enthusiasm," Baxter said. "We have already begun discussing some of the details and activities that we know will help to make the 2018 meeting a great success."

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